

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 31 March 2016

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Believed to Be		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Clermont, Alexis	i	Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy	link
22 nd Infantry Battalion	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
Private #243354	i	Row D Grave 3	i
Death 28 August 1918	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	link	Graves Registration Report	5
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)		Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)		Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)		Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	3	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other Burial Records	4	Reporting and Review	6

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Row D Grave 23 of the Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy lists an UNKNOWN Canadian Soldier of the 22 Infantry Battalion killed on 28 August 1918.

The results of our investigation are clear that Private Alexis Clermont #243354 was known to be buried in this cemetery and was mistakenly identified being buried in A.23 instead of D.23. Unfortunately his name was added to the Vimy Memorial.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Row D Grave 23 are those of Private Alexis Clermont #243354 of the 22nd Canadian Infantry Battalion. He was killed in action on 28 August 1918 in the attack on Cherisy. Many of the men that were killed that day are reported to have been killed “*on or after that date*”, as is the case with Private Clermont.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Circumstance of Death* file for Private Clermont states that he was “*instantly killed by machine gun bullets during the attack and advance from Wancourt to Cherisy*”. His file records that he was buried at the Quebec Cemetery (Trench Map Coordinates 51b.O.34.a.2.4 in Plot 1 Row A Grave 23 (Attachment #1). The reference to Plot #’s was subsequently dropped from the Quebec Cemetery.
2. The E-13 War Grave Register contains the same information regarding burial in Plot 1 Row A Grave 23, as of 22 October 1918 and at the unit on 24 November 1918 (attachment #2). At some point after that occurrence, the graves unit discovered that a Sergeant Ault was buried in that grave and thus Private Clermont was struck from the Quebec Cemetery register and added to the Vimy Memorial as a soldier with no known grave. It is clear that this happened as the result of a recording error in the Row number of A instead of D.
3. There are six (6) Privates of the 22nd Infantry Battalion listed on the Vimy Memorial for KIA on 28 August, 1918 (Attachment #3). Only Private Clermont was reported to having been buried in the Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy and there are no other unknown men of the 22nd Battalion identified as being buried in the cemetery.
 - i. Harry Buckley #448410 – 51b.O.26.d.5.9
 - ii. Augustin Charlebois #448053 – no record of burial
 - iii. **Alexis Clermont #243354 – Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy Plot 1 Row A Grave 23**
 - iv. Raymond Duque #660530 – no record of burial
 - v. Henri LaCasse #1021055 – no record of burial
 - vi. Adie Jose Le Francois #504997 – no record of burial

Private Clermont was identified as being buried in that cemetery and in a grave numbered 23. There are UCS recorded for each of C.23 and D.23, however C.23 is an unknown soldier of the 24th Battalion reportedly killed on 2 September 1918. Elsewhere we have shown that Private Walter Whitty #841668 of the 24th Battalion is in that grave (see [Whitty Report](#)).

4. The conflict in the burial records in the Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy with the remains in Row D Grave 23 related to Sergeant Harold Ault #633251. His reported date of death was 30 August 1918 (Attachment #4). He was buried with his colleagues from the 3rd Infantry Battalion in graves A.20, A.21 and A.22.
5. The Graves Registration Form (GRRF) for Row D Grave 23 shows an Unknown Canadian Soldier of the 22nd Battalion, killed on 2 September 1918 (Attachment #5).

Our research, as previously reported, showed that most of the men killed in the attack on Cherisy were reported to have a date of death after the 28 August 1918. We know that Private Clermont was buried in the Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy, and that an administrative error resulted in his name being struck from the record, due to the conflict with Sergeant Ault. As prior research has shown that [Private Whitty #841688](#) of the 24th Battalion is buried in C.23, we can confirm that the records all agree as to the 22nd Battalion soldier being in D.23.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #6).

It is our belief that the original information was correct that Private Alexis Clermont was buried in the Quebec Cemetery, Cherisy in Grave 23. Through an administrative error the Row was incorrectly recorded as “A” rather than “D”, and when the conflict arose, his name was struck from the register.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
243354	Private	CLERMONT	Alexis
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
22nd Battalion	28-8-18	649-C-25872	Roman Catholic
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Killed in Action"</p> <p>Instantly killed by machine gun bullets during the attack and advance from Wancourt to Cherisy.</p>			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
NOTE—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

20. REPORTED LOCATION OF GRAVE
Quebec Cemetery, Sheet 51c.0.34.a.2.4. Plot 1. Row A. Grave 23.
21. REMARKS

ATTACHMENT #2

Reg. No. 243354.	Rank Pte.	Name CLERMONT. A.	File No. R.L.
Unit Quebec Regt. (22) Canadian Printing & Stationery Services, London			
Date of Casualty	Nature and Place of Casualty		Next-of-Kin
28-8-18.	KILLED IN ACTION.		
Published on D.C.L.			
No. A351.			
Date 22-10-18.			
Unconfirmed Burial Report		Grave No.	Authority
<i>Quebec Cemetery. Sht. 512. C. 34. A. 24.</i> VIMY MEMORIAL		<i>Plot 1, "B" 1466</i> <i>Row A,</i> <i>Grave 23</i>	Report of Circumstances of Casualty Received from Unit Date 24. 11. 18 Forwarded Ottawa 17. 5. 19 Next-of-Kin Written For A.A.G. Written Date Date
Confirmed Burial Report		Grave No.	Authority
			Burial Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin Ottawa Next-of-Kin
Revised Burial Report		Grave No.	Authority
			Revised Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin Ottawa Next-of-Kin

ATTACHMENT #3

Surname

☒ Initials

☐ Forename

Country

(commemorated in)

Country

Cemetery or memorial

Vimy Memorial

War

Please select

Date of death: (starting)

28

Aug

1918

Date of death: (ending)

6 record(s) match your search criteria

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
BUCKLEY, HARRY	Private	448410	28/08/1918	28	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
CHARLEBOIS, AUGUSTIN	Private	448053	28/08/1918	25	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
CLERMONT, ALEXIS	Private	243354	28/08/1918		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
DUQUE, RAYMOND	Private	680530	28/08/1918	24	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
LACASSE, HENRI	Private	1021055	28/08/1918		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
LEFRANCOIS, ADIE JOSE	Private	504977	28/08/1918		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #4

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAMES	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
633251	Sergeant (Cpl.)	AULT	Harold (H.B.)
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
3rd Battalion	30-8-18	649-A-8857	Presbyterian
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
"Killed in Action"			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
Wancourt.			
NOTE:—Form 13, 14 and 15 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
Quebec British Cemetery, Cherisy	Commune:— Cherisy 4.2/5 7 1/2 miles South East of Arras, France. 51b. O.34.a.2.4.	Grave 23 Plot 1 Row "A"	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

Form E. 13
1897 6m. 21/518 D. 262

Reg. No. 633251 Rank Sgt. Name AULT, H.B. (M.M.) Authority on 649-A-8857. 1518
22. R. Sub no 64 25-A-1788

Unit 3rd Battn. (1st C.O. Regt.)

Date of Casualty	Nature and Place of Casualty	Next-of-Kin
30-8-18.	Killed in Action.	J ^{rs} C.S. Ault Aultville Ont.
Published on D.C.L.		
No. A.314		
Date 9-9-18.		Canada
Unconfirmed Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority
Confirmed Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority
Quebec British Cem. Cherisy 7 1/2 miles S. E. of Arras. 1.A.23. 1st C.O. Regt.		
Revised Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority

Report of Circumstances of Casualty

Received from Unit	Forwarded
Date 16-9-18	Ottawa 23.10.18.
Next-of-Kin	
Written For	A.A.G. Written
Date	Date

Burial Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin

Ottawa	23.3.19.
Next-of-Kin	

Revised Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin

Ottawa	
Next-of-Kin	

ATTACHMENT #5

M.MCW. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1. District. B/C. 249 REPORT No. 4 SCHEDULE No. 10 C

COMMUNE:—CHERISY.
PLACE OF BURIAL QUEBEC BRITISH CEMETERY. CHERISY

Map Reference 51b. O. 34. a. 25. 40.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>PLOT 1. ROW "D".</u>						
24/ Cdn. Bn.	3105766	HOULE	Pte. F.	2.9.18.	E.	8.✓
3/ Roy. Scots.	303089	HEPBURN	Sgt. D.	"	E.	9.✓
22/ Cdns. Bn.	416369	LEFVRE	Pte. R.G.	"	E.	10.✓
24/ do.	65440	HENNESSY	RSM., J.	27.8.18.	GRU.	11.
24/ do.	624241	LAMOUREUX	Pte. P.	2.9.18.	E.	12.✓
24/ do.	3156216	CHARBONEAU	Pte. R.	"	E.	13.✓
2/Cdn. M.G.C.		TRAVIS	Lt. C.W.	"	E.	14.✓
7/ Cdn. Trps Rly.	216446	CARMENSON	Pte. R.	"	E.	15.✓
24/ Cdn. Bn.	919719	HILLINS	Pte. S.	"	E.	16.✓
24/ do.	742478	INGERSOLL	Pte. R.H.	"	E.	17.✓
24/ do.	889973	PELLETIER	Pte. F.	"	E.	18.✓
2/ Cdn. M.G.C.		MUCH	Lt. L.F.	"	E.	19.✓
2/ do.	748342	MONTLE	Cpl. G.H.	"	E.	20.✓
8/ Cdn. Bn.	1092183	WILDER	Pte. K.P.	3.9.18.	E.	21.✓
8/ do.	291312	IRWIN	Pte. G.C.	2.9.18.	E.	22.✓
22/ Cdn. Bn.		UNKNOWN		"	E.	23.✓
25/ do.	715517	MATHESON	Pte. J.	"	E.	24.✓

(6 31 5) W3160—Pz723 100,000 9/19 HWV P1024 Forms/W3372/3

ENTERED. 4-10-20
SLIPS CHECKED. 2.8.28.10.20.

ATTACHMENT #6

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author